

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a conversation logic at run-time for a workflow definition that includes at least one node with no hard-coded conversation logic, the method comprising the steps of:
  - a) maintaining a conversation logic repository that includes plural conversation logic, wherein each of the plural conversation logic is external to the workflow definition, and wherein each of the plural conversation logic specifies a corresponding set of operations to be performed on a respective service;
  - b) when executing the node with no hard-coded conversation logic, dynamically discovering, by a computer, a service associated with the node with no hard-coded conversation logic, wherein the discovered service is selected from among plural services;
  - c) selecting one of the plural conversation logic in the conversation logic repository based on the discovered service; and
  - d) dynamically plugging in the determined selected conversation logic into the node at run time in the computer, wherein the run time is a time during which the node with no hard-coded conversation logic is being executed.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of when executing the node with no hard-coded conversation logic, dynamically discovering the service associated with the node with no hard-coded conversation logic includes the steps of:
  - sending a service selection query;
  - in response to the service selection query, selecting a service from among the plural services based on a service selection rule;
  - receiving a service reference; and
  - wherein the step of selecting the conversation logic in the conversation logic repository based on the discovered service further includes the step of using the service reference to select the one conversation logic from the plural conversation logic for the selected service.

1 3. (Currently Amended) A method for selecting a conversation logic at run-time comprising  
2 the steps of:

3 maintaining a conversation logic repository that includes plural conversation logic,  
4 wherein each of the plural conversation logic specifies a corresponding set of operations to be  
5 performed on a respective service;

6 at run-time, sending a service selection query to an electronic services platform or other  
7 service broker, wherein the service selection query is for selecting a service from among plural  
8 services, wherein the run-time is a time during which a node of a workflow definition is being  
9 executed, where the node is with no hard-code of conversation logic;

10 receiving, by a computer, a returned service identifier corresponding to the selected  
11 service;[[ and]]

12 selecting, by the computer, a conversation logic from among the plural conversation logic  
13 in the conversation logic repository based on the returned service identifier; and

14 dynamically plugging in the selected conversation logic into the node with no hard-coded  
15 conversation logic at the run-time.

1 4. (Cancelled)

1 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein a particular one of the plural  
2 conversation logic is for the exclusive use of a given one of the plural services.

1 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein another of the plural conversation  
2 logic is shared by two or more of the plural services.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the conversation logic is not  
2 defined in [[a]]the workflow definition at process definition time, the workflow definition  
3 defining a procedure that executes services.

1 8-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A system for dynamically selecting a conversation logic at run-time for a workflow definition that includes at least one node with no hard-coded conversation logic comprising:

- a workflow engine for processing a workflow definition;
- a conversation logic repository that includes plural conversation logic that are external to the workflow definition, wherein each of the plural conversation logic specifies a corresponding set of operations to be performed on a respective service;
- an engine configured to select one of plural services for execution of the node with no hard-coded conversation logic; and
- a dynamic conversation logic selection mechanism configured to receive a service identifier that is associated with the selected service at run-time, and based on the service identifier to select a conversation logic from the plural conversation logic for interacting with the selected service at the run-time, and

wherein the dynamic conversation logic selection mechanism is configured to further dynamically plug in the selected conversation logic into the node at the run-time, where the run-time is a time during which the node with no hard-coded conversation logic is being executed.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11 further comprising:

- a source for the plural services, wherein the source ~~discovers~~ is configured to discover the selected service based on a service selection rule;
- wherein the dynamic conversation logic selection mechanism is configured to select the conversation logic from the plural conversation logic based on the discovered service.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the source ~~for services~~ is one of a service broker, a service marketplace, and an e-services platform, a company, and an entity.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein only services that have a conversation protocol compatible with one of the conversation logic available in the repository ~~are selected~~ are considered for selection for execution of the node.

15. (Cancelled)

- 1 16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11 wherein a particular one of the plural  
2 conversation logic is for the exclusive use of a given one of the plural services.
- 1 17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 wherein another of the plural conversation  
2 logic is shared by two or more of the plural services.
- 1 18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11 wherein the selected conversation logic is  
2 not defined in the workflow definition at process definition time.
- 1 19.-26. (Cancelled)
- 1 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein different ones of the plural  
2 conversation logic are compatible with different ones of the plural services, and wherein  
3 selecting one of the plural conversation logic comprises selecting a conversation logic that is  
4 compatible with the discovered service.
- 1 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein different ones of the plural  
2 conversation logic are compatible with different ones of the plural services, and wherein  
3 selecting one of the plural conversation logic comprises selecting a conversation logic that is  
4 compatible with the selected service.
- 1 29. (Cancelled)

1 30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the engine to select one of the  
2 plural services is configured to:  
3 submit a service selection query to an electronic services platform to perform selection of  
4 the selected service from the plural services.

1 31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein different ones of the plural  
2 conversation logic are compatible with different ones of the plural services, and wherein  
3 selecting one of the plural conversation logic comprises selecting a conversation logic that is  
4 compatible with the selected service.